

SO. CAL. EQUAL ACCESS GROUP
Jason J. Kim (SBN 190246)
Jason Yoon (SBN 306137)
Kevin Hong (SBN 299040)
101 S. Western Ave., Second Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90004
Telephone: (213) 252-8008
Facsimile: (213) 252-8009
cm@SoCalEAG.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff
CAMERON HARRELL

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

CAMERON HARRELL,
Plaintiff,
vs.

AKAAL MARKET INC D/B/A
VASQUEZ LIQUOR & MEAT
MARKET; GEORGE M. ECONOMY, AS
TRUSTEE OF THE ECONOMY
FAMILY TRUST; and DOES 1 to 10,
Defendants.

Case No.:

COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE
RELIEF AND DAMAGES FOR DENIAL
OF CIVIL RIGHTS OF A DISABLED
PERSON IN VIOLATIONS OF

1. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES
ACT, 42 U.S.C. §12131 et seq.;
2. CALIFORNIA'S UNRUH CIVIL
RIGHTS ACT;
3. CALIFORNIA'S DISABLED
PERSONS ACT;
4. CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY
CODE;
5. NEGLIGENCE

Plaintiff CAMERON HARRELL ("Plaintiff") complains of Defendants AKAAL
MARKET INC D/B/A VASQUEZ LIQUOR & MEAT MARKET; GEORGE M.
ECONOMY, AS TRUSTEE OF THE ECONOMY FAMILY TRUST; and DOES 1 to 10
("Defendants") and alleges as follows:

PARTIES

1
2 1. Plaintiff is a California resident with a physical disability. Plaintiff is
3 diagnosed with complete paraplegia due to a spinal cord injury and is substantially
4 limited in his ability to walk. Plaintiff requires the use of a wheelchair at all times when
5 traveling in public.

6 2. Defendants are, or were at the time of the incident, the real property owners,
7 business operators, lessors and/or lessees of the real property for a grocery store
8 (“Business”) located at or about 11511 Cedar Ave., Bloomington, California.

9 3. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate or
10 otherwise of Defendant DOES 1 through 10, and each of them, are unknown to Plaintiff,
11 who therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will ask leave of
12 Court to amend this Complaint when the true names and capacities have been
13 ascertained. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and, based thereon, alleges that each such
14 fictitiously named Defendants are responsible in some manner, and therefore, liable to
15 Plaintiff for the acts herein alleged.

16 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that, at all relevant
17 times, each of the Defendants was the agent, employee, or alter-ego of each of the other
18 Defendants, and/or was acting in concert with each of the other Defendants, and in doing
19 the things alleged herein was acting with the knowledge and consent of the other
20 Defendants and within the course and scope of such agency or employment relationship.

21 5. Whenever and wherever reference is made in this Complaint to any act or
22 failure to act by a defendant or Defendants, such allegations and references shall also be
23 deemed to mean the acts and failures to act of each Defendant acting individually, jointly
24 and severally.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

25
26 6. The Court has jurisdiction of this action pursuant to 28 USC §§ 1331 and
27 1343 for violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, (42 USC §12101, *et*
28 *seq.*).

9. Venue is proper in this court pursuant to 28 USC §1391(b). The real property which is the subject of this action is located in this district, San Bernardino County, California, and that all actions complained of herein take place in this district.

11. The Business is a grocery store business establishment, open to the public, and is a place of public accommodation that affects commerce through its operation. Defendants provide parking spaces for customers.

13. To the extent of Plaintiff's personal knowledge, the barriers at the Business included, but were not limited to, the following:

- COMPLAINT - 3

- 1 a. A failure to make reasonable modification in policies, practices, or
2 procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford such
3 goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations
4 to individuals with disabilities, unless the entity can demonstrate that
5 making such modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of
6 such goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or
7 accommodations. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(ii).
- 8 b. A failure to take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that no
9 individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or
10 otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the
11 absence of auxiliary aids and services, unless the entity can
12 demonstrate that taking such steps would fundamentally alter the
13 nature of the good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or
14 accommodation being offered or would result in an undue burden. 42
15 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iii).
- 16 c. A failure to remove architectural barriers, and communication barriers
17 that are structural in nature, in existing facilities, and transportation
18 barriers in existing vehicles and rail passenger cars used by an
19 establishment for transporting individuals (not including barriers that
20 can only be removed through the retrofitting of vehicles or rail
21 passenger cars by the installation of a hydraulic or other lift), where
22 such removal is readily achievable. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv).
- 23 d. A failure to make alterations in such a manner that, to the maximum
24 extent feasible, the altered portions of the facility are readily
25 accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, including
26 individuals who use wheelchairs or to ensure that, to the maximum
27 extent feasible, the path of travel to the altered area and the
28 bathrooms, telephones, and drinking fountains serving the altered

1 area, are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with
2 disabilities where such alterations to the path or travel or the
3 bathrooms, telephones, and drinking fountains serving the altered area
4 are not disproportionate to the overall alterations in terms of cost and
5 scope. 42 U.S.C. § 12183(a)(2).

6 21. Where parking spaces are provided, accessible parking spaces shall be
7 provided. 1991 ADA Standards § 4.1.2(5); 2010 ADA Standards § 208. One in every
8 eight accessible spaces, but not less than one, shall be served by an access aisle 96 in
9 (2440 mm) wide minimum and shall be designated “van accessible.” 1991 ADA
10 Standards § 4.1.2(5)(b). For every six or fraction of six parking spaces, at least one shall
11 be a van accessible parking space. 2010 ADA Standards § 208.2.4.

12 22. For the parking spaces, access aisles shall be marked with a blue painted
13 borderline around their perimeter. The area within the blue borderlines shall be marked
14 with hatched lines a maximum of 36 inches (914 mm) on center in a color contrasting
15 with that of the aisle surface, preferably blue or white. The words "NO PARKING" shall
16 be painted on the surface within each access aisle in white letters a minimum of 12 inches
17 (305 mm) in height and located to be visible from the adjacent vehicular way. CBC §
18 11B-502.3.3.

19 23. Here, Defendants failed to provide a proper access aisle as there were no
20 “NO PARKING” markings painted on the parking surface.

21 24. Under the 1991 Standards, parking spaces and access aisles must be level
22 with surface slopes not exceeding 1:50 (2%) in all directions. 1991 Standards § 4.6.2.
23 Accessible parking spaces shall be at least 96 in (2440 mm) wide. Parking access aisles
24 shall be part of an accessible route to the building or facility entrance and shall comply
25 with 4.3. Two accessible parking spaces may share a common access aisle. Parked
26 vehicle overhangs shall not reduce the clear width of an accessible route. Parking spaces
27 and access aisles shall be level with surface slopes not exceeding 1:50 (2%) in all
28 directions. 1991 Standards § 4.6.3.

1 25. Here, the access aisle is not level with the parking spaces as there was a
2 permanent ramp installed within the boundary of the access aisle. Under the 2010
3 Standards, access aisles shall be at the same level as the parking spaces they serve.
4 Changes in level are not permitted. 2010 Standards § 502.4. "Access aisles are required
5 to be nearly level in all directions to provide a surface for transfer to and from vehicles."
6 2010 Standards § 502.4 Advisory. Id. No more than a 1:48 slope is permitted.

7 26. A public accommodation shall maintain in operable working condition those
8 features of facilities and equipment that are required to be readily accessible to and usable
9 by persons with disabilities by the Act or this part. 28 C.F.R. 35.211(a).

10 27. By failing to maintain the facility to be readily accessible and usable by
11 Plaintiff, Defendants are in violation of Plaintiff's rights under the ADA and its related
12 regulations.

13 28. The Business has denied and continues to deny full and equal access to
14 Plaintiff and to other people with disabilities. Plaintiff has been and will continue to be
15 discriminated against due to the lack of accessible facilities, and therefore, seeks
16 injunctive relief to alter facilities to make such facilities readily accessible to and usable
17 by individuals with disabilities.

18 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

19 **VIOLATION OF THE UNRUH CIVIL RIGHTS ACT**

20 29. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each of the allegations in all prior
21 paragraphs in this complaint.

22 30. California Civil Code § 51 states, "All persons within the jurisdiction of this
23 state are free and equal, and no matter what their sex, race, color, religion, ancestry,
24 national origin, disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sexual
25 orientation, citizenship, primary language, or immigration status are entitled to the full
26 and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, or services in all business
27 establishments of every kind whatsoever."
28

provided), telephone facilities, adoption agencies, private schools, hotels, loading places, places of public accommodations, amusement, or resort, and other places in which the general public is invited, subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law, or state or federal regulation, and applicable alike to all persons.

37. California Civil Code § 54.3(a) states, “Any person or persons, firm or corporation who denies or interferes with admittance to or enjoyment of public facilities as specified in Sections 54 and 54.1 or otherwise interferes with the rights of an individual with a disability under Sections 54, 54.1 and 54.2 is liable for each offense for the actual damages, and any amount as may be determined by a jury, or a court sitting without a jury, up to a maximum of three times the amount of actual damages but in no case less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and any attorney’s fees that may be determined by the court in addition thereto, suffered by any person denied the rights provided in Section 54, 54.1, and 54.2.

38. California Civil Code § 54(d) specifies, “a violation of the right of an individual under Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336) also constitute a violation of this section, and nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the access of any person in violation of that act.

39. The actions and omissions of Defendants alleged herein constitute a denial of full and equal accommodation, advantages, and facilities by physically disabled persons within the meaning of California Civil Code § 54. Defendants have discriminated against Plaintiff in violation of California Civil Code § 54.

40. The violations of the California Disabled Persons Act caused Plaintiff to experience difficulty, discomfort, and embarrassment. The Defendants are also liable for statutory damages as specified in California Civil Code §55.56(a)-(c).

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 19955, et seq.

41. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each of the allegations in all prior paragraphs in this complaint.

1 42. Plaintiff and other similar physically disabled persons who require the use of
2 a wheelchair are unable to use public facilities on a “full and equal” basis unless each
3 such facility is in compliance with the provisions of California Health & Safety Code §
4 19955 et seq. Plaintiff is a member of the public whose rights are protected by the
5 provisions of California Health & Safety Code § 19955 et seq.

6 43. The purpose of California Health & Safety Code § 1995 et seq. is to ensure
7 that public accommodations or facilities constructed in this state with private funds
8 adhere to the provisions of Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 4450) of Division 5 of
9 Title 1 of the Government Code. The code relating to such public accommodations also
10 require that “when sanitary facilities are made available for the public, clients, or
11 employees in these stations, centers, or buildings, they shall be made available for
12 persons with disabilities.

13 44. Title II of the ADA holds as a “general rule” that no individual shall be
14 discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of goods
15 (or use), services, facilities, privileges, and accommodations offered by any person who
16 owns, operates, or leases a place of public accommodation. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(a).
17 Further, each and every violation of the ADA also constitutes a separate and distinct
18 violation of California Civil Code §§ 54(c) and 54.1(d), thus independently justifying an
19 award of damages and injunctive relief pursuant to California law, including but not
20 limited to Civil Code § 54.3 and Business and Professions Code § 17200, et seq.

21 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

22 **NEGLIGENCE**

23 45. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each of the allegations in all prior
24 paragraphs in this complaint.

25 46. Defendants have a general duty and a duty under the ADA, Unruh Civil
26 Rights Act and California Disabled Persons Act to provide safe and accessible facilities
27 to the Plaintiff.
28

47. Defendants breached their duty of care by violating the provisions of ADA, Unruh Civil Rights Act and California Disabled Persons Act.

48. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligent conduct, Plaintiff has suffered damages.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully prays for relief and judgment against Defendants as follows:

1. For preliminary and permanent injunction directing Defendants to comply with the Americans with Disability Act and the Unruh Civil Rights Act;

2. Award of all appropriate damages, including but not limited to statutory damages, general damages and treble damages in amounts, according to proof;

3. Award of all reasonable restitution for Defendants' unfair competition practices;

4. Reasonable attorney's fees, litigation expenses, and costs of suit in this action;

5. Prejudgment interest pursuant to California Civil Code § 3291; and

6. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: February 23, 2024

SO. CAL. EQUAL ACCESS GROUP

By: /s/ Jason J. Kim
Jason J. Kim, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff